

## Message Text

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70

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 /070 W

----- 116006

R 122105Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1564

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN AC

SUBJ: HALF MOON BAY HOTEL (ANTIGUA)

REF: STATE 222353

1. WHILE ANTIGUA PERHAPS HAS MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND OCCASIONALLY SHOWS SIGNS OF LATENT RACIAL HOSTILITY, IT HAS EXPERIENCED NOTHING LIKE ST. CROIX INCIDENT, AND US TOURISM POTENTIAL REMAINS PROMISING. BARRING SOME PRESENTLY UNFORESEEN DETERIORATION IN POLITICAL SITUATION, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ENDEMIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TROUBLES IN ANTIGUA ARE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ADVERSE IMPACT ON TOURISM IN GENERAL OR ON PARTICULAR PROJECT UNDER REFERENCE. DEPUTY U.K. REPRESENTATIVE IN ANTIGUA AGREES WITH THIS ASSESSMENT. RECENT U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS KILLINGS MAY HAVE DISSUADED SOME POTENTIAL NORTH AMERICAN VISITORS TO CARIBBEAN IN GENERAL BUT AFFECT ON ANTIGUA HAS BEEN MARGINAL.

2. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ANTIGUA'S TOURIST TRADE IS PROBLEM FREE. GOA HAS BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME OVER SLOWER THAN ANTICIPATED GROWTH OF TOURISM AND APPARENT DECLINES IN LENGTH OF AVERAGE STAY. BUT SUCH DECLINES ARE GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE MORE RELATED TO RISE OF PACKAGE TOURS, HIGHER COSTS IN ANTIGUA AND TO DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING TRAINED STAFF TO RENDER SUFFICIENTLY EFFICIENT AND COURTEOUS TREATMENT TO VISITORS.

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RECENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT 1973-74 SEASON MAY BE SOMEWHAT

BETTER FOR ANTIGUA HOTELIERS THAN LAST TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF GOA PROMOTION EFFORTS IN U.S. AND CANADA.

3. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, ANTIGUA IS FACING MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS WITH SLOW GDP GROWTH, DECLINING AGRICULTURE, AND DIFFICULTIES IN ATTRACTING SUFFICIENT INVESTMENT FROM ABROAD. GOA, STRUGGLING UNDER LARGE DEBT BURDEN, MAY TAKE COORDINATED MEASURES IN NEAR FUTURE THAT COULD IMPROVE TOURISM PROSPECTS AND PLACE ECONOMY ON MORE SECURE FINANCIAL FOOTING (REF A-207). GOA HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MEET PAYMENT SCHEDULES ON AT LEAST TWO LOAN GUARANTEES FROM U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK AND THE OUTLOOK IS FOR THESE REPAYMENT DIFFICULTIES TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE TO HALF MOON BAY HOTEL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR J.P. KELLY, WHO WAS BUOYANTLY OPTIMISTIC OVER FUTURE OF PROJECT AND OF FUTURE OF TOURISM IN ANTIGUA. KELLY OFFERED VIEW THAT U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS CRIMES HAD SEVERELY HURT TOURIST TRADE THERE AND POSSIBLY IN BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS AS WELL, BUT STATED THAT NO EFFECTS EVIDENT IN ANTIGUA. KELLY CONFIRMED HMB BOARD MEETING TO TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 15 AND LOOKED FORWARD TO ACCEPTANCE OF OPIC'S LATEST PROPOSALS.  
DONOVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, TOURISM, HOTELS, INVESTMENT GUARANTEES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HALF MOON BAY HOTEL (ANTIGUA)  
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